CLAIMS

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:

1   1. A system implementing a collaborative development environment among a
2   team of developers, comprising:
3   a monitor that captures user and environment events;
4   a context manager that maintains relationships and resources within
5   contexts; and
6   a viewer that presents collaboration elements based on a current
7   developer context.

1   2. The system in claim 1, wherein the monitor and the viewer comprise a
2   collaborative plugin to an integrated development environment that provides a
3   user with tools for use in the development environment, there being a
4   collaborative plugin for each user workstation.

1   3. The system in claim 2, wherein the collaborative plugin further comprises a
2   user interface component adapted to define contexts and collaboration spaces.

1   4. The system in claim 1, wherein the context manager allows a context to be
2   created, allows resources and relationships to be added to and removed from a
3   context, and answers queries about contextual relationships.

1   5. The system in claim 2, further comprising a collaboration manager
2   interfacing with collaborative plugins in a plurality of workstations to
3   facilitate connection between application or development environments to

4   collaboration spaces and collaboration modalities.

1   6. The system in claim 5, wherein the collaboration modalities include an

2   instant messaging server, a team room server and an e-meeting server.

1   7. The system in claim 1, further comprising a collaboration manager that

2   provides life cycle management functions of the collaboration spaces.

1   8. A computer implemented method to support collaborative development

2   among a team of developers, comprising the steps of:

3   capturing user and development environments;

4   maintaining relationships and resources within contexts; and

5   presenting collaboration elements based on a current developer

6   context.

1   9. The method in claim 8, further comprising the step of defining contexts and

2   collaboration spaces.

1   10. The method in claim 8, wherein the steps of capturing and presenting are

2   implemented by a collaborative plugin to an integrated development

3   environment that provides a user with tools for use in the development

4   environment, there being a collaborative plugin for each user workstation.

1   11. The method in claim 10, wherein the collaborative plugin further

2   implements a user interface defining contexts and collaboration spaces.

1   12. The method in claim 8, wherein the step of maintaining relationships and

2   resources within contexts includes the steps of creating a context, adding to

3   and removing from a context resources and relationships, and answering

4   queries about contextual relationships.

1   13. The method in claim 8, further comprising the step of facilitating

2   connection between application or development environments to collaboration

3   spaces and collaboration modalities.

1   14. The method in claim 9, further comprising the step of managing the life

2   cycle of collaboration spaces.